OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E. Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 15. Part 2. Pp. 25-40

OPINION 437

Validation under the Plenary Powers of the generic name *Pachyceras* Bayle, 1878 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) by the suppression of the name *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg, 1844 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera)

LONDON:

Printed by Order of the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7

1957

Price Ten Shillings and Sixpence

(All rights reserved)

APR 25 1957

Issued 8th January, 1957

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE **RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 437**

The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President: Dr. Karl JORDAN (British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England)

President: Professor James Chester Bradley (Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.) (12th August 1953)

Vice-President: Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (Sao Paulo, Brazil) (12th August 1953) Secretary: Mr. Francis Hemming (London, England) (27th July 1948)

The Members of the Commission

(Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology)

Professor H. Boschma (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands) (1st January 1947)
Senor Dr. Angel Cabrera (La Plata, Argentina) (27th July 1948)
Mr. Francis Hemming (London, England) (27th July 1948) (Secretary)
Dr. Henning Lemche (Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark) (27th July 1948)

July 1948)
Professor Teiso Esaki (Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan) (17th April 1950)
Professor Pierre Bonnet (Université de Toulouse, France) (9th June 1950)
Mr. Norman Denbigh Riley (British Museum (Natural History), London) (9th June 1950) Professor Tadeusz Jaczewski (Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland) (15th June 1950)

Professor Robert Mertens (Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a.M., Germany) (5th July 1950)

Professor Erich Martin Hering (Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany) (5th July 1950)

Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (S. Paulo, Brazil) (12th August 1953) (Vice-President)

Professor L. B. Dangon (Lith August 1953) Professor J. R. DYMOND (University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada) (12th August 1953) Professor J. Chester Bradley (Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.) (12th August 1953) (President)
Professor Harold E. Vokes (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.) (12th

August 1953)

Professor Béla HANKó (Mezőgazdasági Muzeum, Budapest, Hungary) (12th August 1953)
Dr. Norman R. Stoll (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.) (12th August 1953)

U.S.A.) (12th August 1953)
Mr. P. C. SYLVESTER-BRADLEY (Sheffield University, Sheffield, England) (12th August 1953)
Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands) (12th August 1953)
Dr. K. H. L. KEY (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia) (15th October 1954)
Dr. Alden H. MILLER (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.) (29th October 1954)
Doc. Dr. Ferdinand Prantl (Národni Museum V Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia) (30th October 1954)
Professor Dr. Wilhelm Kürnert (Zoologisches Institut der Universität Viewer (1964)

Professor Dr. Wilhelm Kühnelt (Zoologisches Institut der Universität, Vienna, Austria) (6th November 1954)

Professor F. S. Bodenheimer (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel) (11th November 1954)

Professor Ernst Mayr (Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) (4th December 1954)
Professor Enrico Tortonese (Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy)

(16th December 1954)

OPINION 437

VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE GENERIC NAME "PACHYCERAS" BAYLE, 1878 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA) BY THE SUPPRESSION OF THE NAME "PACHYCERAS" RATZEBURG, 1844 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA)

RULING:—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the generic name *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg, 1844 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera), is hereby suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy.

- (2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers 1041 and 1042 respectively:—
 - (a) Pachyceras Bayle, 1878, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1) above (gender: neuter) (type species, by monotypy: Ammonites lalandeanus d'Orbigny, 1848) (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea);
 - (b) Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848 (gender: masculine) (type species, by selection by Ashmead (1904): Pachyceras xylophagorum Ratzeburg, 1844) (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera).
- (3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers 1113 and 1114 respectively:—
 - (a) lalandeanus d'Orbigny, 1848, as published in the combination Ammonites lalandeanus (specific name

- of type species of *Pachyceras* Bayle, 1878) (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea);
- (b) xylophagorum Ratzeburg, 1844, as published in the combination *Pachyceras xylophagorum* (specific name of type species of *Roptrocerus* Ratzeburg, 1848) (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera).
- (4) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 826 and 827 respectively:—
 - (a) Pachyceras Ratzeburg, 1844, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above;
 - (b) Lalandeites Breistroffer, 1947 (a junior objective synonym of Pachyceras Bayle, 1878).
- (5) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 125:—PACHYCERATIDAE Buckman (S.S.), 1918 (type genus: *Pachyceras* Bayle, 1878).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 10th April 1952, Dr. W. J. Arkell (Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University) submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the following application for the suppression under the Plenary Powers of the generic name Pachyceras Ratzeburg, 1844 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) (Living), for the purpose of validating the well-known name

Pachyceras Bayle, 1878 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) (Jurassic):—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name "Pachyceras" Bayle, 1878 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea; Jurassic) by suppressing the generic name "Pachyceras" Ratzeburg, 1844 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera; Living)

By W. J. ARKELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.

(Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the long-established and well-known generic name *Pachyceras* Bayle, 1878 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea: Jurassic) by suppressing under the same Powers the generic name *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg, 1844 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera: Living). The considerations involved in this case are set out below.

- 2. The generic name *Pachyceras* Bayle (1878: pl. 43) has as its type species by monotypy *Ammonites lalandeanus* d'Orbigny (1848: 477, pl. 175), from the Oxford Clay.
- 3. For more than seventy years this common and widespread genus has been known in the literature under the name *Pachyceras* Bayle, and it has never been referred to in geological works by any other name. The generic name *Pachyceras* is current in all monographs, treatises, and text-books of palaeontology and geology.
- 4. For the last thirty-six years *Pachyceras* has been type genus of a family PACHYCERATIDAE Buckman (1918: xiii), which has been referred to in all works dealing with the classification of Jurassic ammonites (lastly in Arkell, 1950: 363, as subfamily).
- 5. It was first revealed by Neave's "Nomenclator" (1940) that this generic name was preoccupied by *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg (1844: table, 40, 217) a genus of the Order Hymenoptera.
- 6. The only worker who appears so far to have noticed that *Pachyceras* Bayle is an invalid name is Breistroffer (1947), who in a list of nomenclatorial corrections renamed it *Lalandeites*, with type species *Ammonites lalandeanus* d'Orbigny by original designation,

- 7. At the same time Breistroffer provided a new name ERYMNO-CERATIDAE Breistroffer, 1947, for the family PACHYCERATIDAE Buckman, 1918 (*Erymnoceras* Hyatt, 1900, being another nominal genus included by Buckman in his family PACHYCERATIDAE).
- 8. In selecting the *Procès-Verbaux mensuels de la Soc. Sci. du Dauphiné* (26 an., no. 195, pages not numbered) as the channel for publishing this and other new generic and family names which palaeontologists all over the world are bound to adopt from the date of publication (April, 1947), Breistroffer seems to have overestimated the speed and extent of circulation of this serial. At least, although a specialist in Jurassic ammonites, who habitually watches literature-recording serials, I did not come across the paper until 1952. Its title and content had not then appeared in the *Zoological Record*. Meanwhile the generic name *Pachyceras* has been used in at least three more monographs dealing with ammonites of this and allied genera, by authors of three different nationalities (Swiss, French, British): Jeannet, 1951; Basse, 1952; Arkell, 1952.
- 9. Neave's "Nomenclator" also showed that in 1848, in the second volume of the same work, Ratzeburg himself withdrew his *Pachyceras* of 1844, believing it to have been preoccupied by *Pachycerus* Schoenherr, 1823, and renamed it *Roptrocerus*. Since a difference of one letter is now considered enough to preclude two generic names being classed as homonyms, *Roptrocerus* Ratzeburg, 1848, falls as junior synonym of *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg, 1844, which is valid.
- 10. Considering the hardship that would be involved in a change of name for *Pachyceras* Bayle and PACHYCERATIDAE Buckman, I wrote early in 1952 to some leading entomologists, enquiring whether they would oppose an application for the suppression of *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg, 1844, in favour of *Roptrocerus* Ratzeburg, 1848.
- 11. Dr. G. J. Kerrich (Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London) writes (18 Feb. 1952): "Pachyceras Ratz. has come into use to some extent, but in the past it has been less used than Roptrocerus (or Rhoptrocerus). My personal opinion is that no strong objection would be raised to the suppression of Pachycerus Ratz., 1844, to enable the name to be used in the ammonites."
- 12. Dr. Ch. Ferrière (Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève) writes (26 Feb. 1952) that Pachyceras Ratz., 1844, was re-established in 1923 and since then has come back into general use in both Europe and America, and "although it would not bring very great confusion to come back to Roptrocerus, I do not think it would be convenient to change the name again . . . the name is now found in all the newest literature and catalogues . . . I do not know the importance of the ammonite genus Pachyceras Bayle, and it would be good and interesting

to put the question before the International Commission on Nomenclature". In a more recent communication (dated 18th April 1952) Dr. Ferrière, in acknowledging the receipt of the draft of the present application which I had sent him, wrote:—"As the question has been put forward, I am willing to agree with you and to support, if necessary, your proposition."

- 13. Dr. B. D. Burks (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D.C.) writes (17th March 1952): "I would not, personally, have any objections to suppressing Pachyceras Ratzeburg, in favour of your ammonite usage, and using Roptrocerus instead for the chalcid. Most of the literature, especially in economic entomology, has Roptrocerus. I find in our files about 100 references using Roptrocerus, but only 25 under Pachyceras. In my opinion, a suspension of the rule of priority should not be made for the convenience of taxonomists alone (we can change name usages relatively easily), but if a scientific name has gotten into use in the non-taxonomic literature, as in text-books, in handbooks for the use of amateurs, in works on distribution and ecology, and the like, there is reason to consider retaining that name even though it does not have priority. It is for you to decide whether or not the name Pachyceras, as an ammonite, has been widely enough used that its change would work a genuine hardship."
- 14. In the light of these helpful letters from three of the leading specialists concerned with the group of insects to which Pachyceras Ratzeburg belongs, I have reviewed the geological literature in which Pachyceras Bayle is used and have decided to present the case for decision. Although aware that the name Pachyceras for an ammonite has at present no legal standing, I submit that it has been used in good faith by palaeontologists and geologists of all nations for so long and so widely that a change of name now would constitute a hardship and would cause confusion; and that although a replacement name was published in 1947, it appeared in a publication so obscure that other workers have not yet become aware of it, while entomologists already have in the name Roptrocerus a substitute name for use for the ichneumon which appears to be as familiar as Pachyceras, and which has been in use for over 100 years and has been used more often than Pachyceras.
- 15. Besides the recent works already mentioned, namely a general classification of Jurassic ammonites (Arkell, 1950) and monographs on faunas from Switzerland (Jeannet, 1951), Arabia (Arkell, 1952) and Madagascar (Basse, 1952), the name *Pachyceras* appears in such standard works on ammonites as Buckman (1918) and Roman (1938), and in geological survey memoirs on India (Spath, 1928) and on French North Africa (Lucas, 1942), as well as in the leading standard text-books of both geology (Haug, 1910) and palaeontology (Zittel, 1881—5 and all successive editions to the latest, Zittel, 1924).

- 16. I therefore appeal to entomologists to accept the inconvenience of reverting to the use of *Roptrocerus* Ratzeburg, 1848, instead of *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg, 1844.
- 17. Realising that, if the Commission decides to grant the present application, it will be necessary for it not only to place the generic name Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology but also to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name of the type species of that genus or, if that is not the oldest available name for that species, whatever is the oldest name, I applied to Dr. Kerrich for the information needed to enable me to complete this part of the present application. Dr. Kerrich has kindly supplied the following particulars:—(1) The nominal genus Pachyceras Ratzeburg, 1844, was established with two included nominal species, both then described as new. These were:— (a) Pachyceras xylophagorum (: 218) and Pachyceras eccoptogastri, the latter being only briefly diagnosed by reference to the former. Neither of these nominal species was designated as type species of this (2) The nominal genus Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848 (2:209) was established as a substitute for Pachyceras Ratzeburg, 1844 (in the mistaken belief that it was a junior homonym of Pachycerus Schoenherr, 1826) and the same species were referred to it as had been referred to Pachyceras Ratzeburg, 1844. Again Ratzeburg did not designate a type species. (3) The first author to select a type species for either nominal genus was Ashmead who in 1904 (Mem. Carnegie Mus. 1(4): 388) selected the nominal species Pachyceras xylophagorum Ratzeburg, 1844, to be the type species of Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848.
- 18. I now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:—
 - (1) to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Pachyceras*Ratzeburg, 1844, for the purposes both of the Law of Priority
 and of the Law of Homonymy;
 - (2) to place the under-mentioned names on the Official. List of Generic Names in Zoology:—
 - (a) Pachyceras Bayle, 1878, as validated by the Ruling recommended in (1) above (gender: neuter) (type species, by monotypy: Ammonites lalandeanus d'Orbigny, 1848);
 - (b) Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848 (gender: neuter) (type species, by selection by Ashmead (1904): Pachyceras xylophagorum Ratzeburg, 1844);
 - (3) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:—
 - (a) lalandeanus d'Orbigny, 1848, as published in the combination Ammonites lalandeanus (specific name of type species of Pachyceras Bayle, 1878);

- (b) xylophagorum Ratzeburg, 1844, as published in the combination Pachyceras xylophagorum (specific name of type species of Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848);
- (4) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:—
 - (a) Pachyceras Ratzeburg, 1844, as proposed under (1) above to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers;
 - (b) Lalandeites Breistroffer, 1947 (a junior objective synonym of Pachyceras Bayle, 1878);
- (5) to place the under-mentioned family-group name on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:—PACHYCERATIDAE Buckman (S.S.), 1918 (type genus: Pachyceras Bayle, 1878).

References

- Arkell, W. J. 1950. A classification of the Jurassic Ammonites. J. Paleont. 24: 363
- Arkell, W. J. 1952. Jurassic ammonites from Jebel Tuwaiq, Central Arabia. *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.* (B) 236: 291
- Basse, E. 1952. Macrocephalitidés du sud-ouest de Madagascar. Mém. Soc. géol. France (n.s.) 30: 88, 91
- Bayle, E. 1878. Explication de la Carte géologique de France, vol. 4. Atlas only
- Breistroffer, M. 1947. Notes de nomenclature paléozoologique. Procès-Verbaux mensuels Soc. Sci. du Dauphiné, 26 année, no. 195 (pages not numbered)
- Buckman, S. S. 1918. Type Ammonites, 2: xiii
- Haug, E. 1910. Traité de Géologie: 998, 1009, etc.
- Jeannet, A. 1951. Beiträge zur Geol. der Schweiz, Geotechnische Serie (13 Lief.), 5: 108
- Lucas, G. 1942. Description géologique des Monts de Ghar Rouban et du Sidi el Abed, *Bull. Serv. Carte géol. Algérie*, (2) 16: 365
- Neave, S. A. 1940. Nomenclator Zoologicus, 4 vols.
- Orbigny, A. d'. 1842—51. *Paléontologie française*, Terrains jurassiques, Céphalopodes
- Ratzeburg, J. T. C. 1844, 1848. Die Ichneumoniden, Vol. 1 (1844), vol. 2 (1848)
- Roman, F. 1938. Les Ammonites jurassiques et crétacées: 220

Spath, L. F. 1928. Revision of the Jurassic cephalopod fauna of Kachh (Cutch). *Pal. indica* (n.s.) 9, Mem. 2, part 3: 221, 222

Zittel, K. A. 1881-5. Handbuch der Paläontologie 2:451

Zittel, K. A. 1924. Grundzüge der Paläontologie: 575

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

- 2. Registration of the present application: Upon the receipt of Dr. Arkell's application the question of the use of the Plenary Powers for the validation of the generic name *Pachyceras* Bayle, 1878, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 670.
- **3. Publication of the present application:** The present application was sent to the printer on 22nd November 1954 and was published on 31st January 1955 in Part 1 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Arkell, 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11:** 28—32).
- 4. Public Notices: Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 4:51—56) Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 31st January 1955 (a) in Part 1 of Volume 11 of the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (the Part in which Dr. Arkell's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given to a number of general zoological serial publications. Further, as the present case involved the name of an insect as well as the name of an ammonite, Public Notice was given to six entomological serials as well as to three palaeontological serials in Europe and America.
- 5. Comments received: The proposal submitted in this case was supported from the entomological side by the following three

specialists when the present application was in course of preparation, namely:—(a) Dr. G. J. Kerrich (British Museum (Natural History), London), whose communication is reproduced in paragraph 11 of the application submitted; (b) Dr. Ch. Ferrière (Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève) (paragraph 12 of the application); (c) Dr. B. D. Burke (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) (paragraph 13 of the application). In addition, after the publication of Dr. Arkell's application two further communications were received in support of the action proposed, one from an entomologist and the other from an ammonite specialist. These communications are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

- 6. Support received from Professor J. Chester Bradley (Cornell University, Division of Entomology, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.): On 2nd June 1955, Professor J. Chester Bradley (Cornell University, Division of Entomology, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.) addressed a communication to the Office of the Commission commenting on a number of recently published applications, in which as regards the present application he indicated his support as follows:—"Pachyceras (Z.N.(S.) 670). Agreed."
- 7. Support from Dr. D. T. Donovan (Department of Geology, University of Bristol, England): On 14th November 1955, Dr. D. T. Donovan (Department of Geology, University of Bristol, England) addressed a letter to the Office of the Commission regarding two of Dr. Arkell's applications. Dr. Donovan's remarks concerning the present case were as follows:—
- I agree with Dr. Arkell's contention that the ammonite name *Pachyceras* Bayle, 1787, is in universal and common use, and support his application for its validation, provided that the suppression of *Pachyceras* Ratzeburg, 1844 (Order Hymenoptera), does not cause undue inconvenience to entomologists. May I add my disapproval to that implied by Dr. Arkell in section 8 of his application, of the mode of publication of substitute names chosen by Breistroffer. In my view names proposed to replace well-known but invalid existing names should be published in a journal of national standing and international circulation.

8. No objection received: No objection to the use of the Plenary Powers in the manner proposed in this case was received either from the ammonite or from the entomological side.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

- 9. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(55)14: On 5th August 1955, a Voting Paper (V.P.(55)14) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the name *Pachyceras* Bayle, 1878, and associated names set out in Points (1) to (5) in paragraph 18 on pp. 31 to 32 in Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].
- 10. The Prescribed Voting Period: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 5th November 1955.
- 11. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)14: At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)14 was as follows:—
 - (a) Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-five (25) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received):

Bodenheimer; Holthuis; Riley; Vokes; Stoll; Hering; Bradley (J.C.); Lemche; Prantl; Hankó; Mayr;

do Amaral¹; Esaki; Kühnelt; Dymond; Sylvester-Bradley; Key; Jaczewski¹; Mertens; Bonnet; Hemming; Miller; Cabrera; Boschma; Tortonese;

(b) Negative Votes:

None:

(c) Voting Papers not returned:

None.

- 12. Correction of the gender proposed to be assigned to the generic name "Roptrocerus" in the application submitted: In returning their completed copies of Voting Paper V.P.(55)14, Commissioner do Amaral and Commissioner Jaczewski each indicated that, in his opinion, the neuter gender assigned to the generic name Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848, was incorrect and that the correct gender of this name was the masculine gender. On receipt of these comments the following action was taken by the Secretary:—
 - (1) A Report was asked for from Professor L. W. Grensted, Consulting Classical Adviser to the Commission, who on 11th October 1955, reported as follows:—

I am sure that Senhor do Amaral is perfectly right. The principle is that which I followed in my article TRICHOCERIDAE in 1949 Ent. mon. Mag. 84:280, 281, where I shewed that names in "-cera" must be treated as feminine, and names in "-ceros" or "-cerus" as masculine. "Roptrocerus" is

¹This Commissioner when returning his Voting Paper indicated that in his view the correct gender for the name *Roptrocerus* was masculine and not neuter, the gender attributed to it in the application submitted. See paragraph 12 of the present *Opinion*.

in fact an adjectival noun, Latinised from a form $-\kappa \epsilon \rho \omega_s$ and not from $-\kappa \epsilon \rho \alpha_s$. It comes under the principle of Copenhagen Decisions 84(3). The point is quite plain.

(2) Following the receipt of Professor Grensted's report, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, executed on 3rd November 1955, a Minute in the following terms:—

"Roptrocerus" Ratzeburg, 1848: gender of generic name

The Report dated 11th October 1955, received from Professor L. W. Grensted, Consulting Classical Adviser, shows conclusively that the correct gender for the generic name *Roptrocerus* Ratzeburg, 1848, is, as stated by Commissioners do Amaral and Jaczewski, the masculine gender and not the neuter gender attributed to it in the application submitted in this case.

- 2. Accordingly, as Secretary to the International Commission, I now direct that the gender to be attributed to the foregoing name be corrected to the masculine gender and that that gender be treated as adopted by the International Commission when taking its decision in the present case.
- 13. Declaration of Result of Vote: On 5th November 1955, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(55)14, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 11 above, and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.
- 14. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion": On 5th October 1956, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(55)14, subject to the adjustment specified in the Minute executed by the Secretary on 3rd November 1955, reproduced in paragraph 12 of the present *Opinion*.

- 15. Original References: The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:—
- lalandeanus, Ammonites, d'Orbigny, 1848, Paléont. franç., Terr. jurass., Céphal. : 477, pl. 175
- Lalandeites Breistroffer, 1947, P. V. mens. Soc. Sci. Dauphiné 26 (195) (pages not numbered)
- Pachyceras Ratzeburg, 1844, Die Ichneumoniden 1: Table facing page 40, 217
- Pachyceras Bayle, 1878, Explic. Carte géol. France 4 (Atlas): pl. 43
- Roptrocerus Ratzeburg, 1848, Die Ichneumoniden 2: 208
- xylophagorum, Pachyceras, Ratzeburg, [March] 1844, Die Ichneumoniden 1: 218
- 16. The following is the original reference for the family-group name placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:—PACHYCERATIDAE Buckman (S.S.), 1918, Type Ammonites 2: xiii.
- 17. The following is the reference for the type selection for *Roptrocerus* Ratzeburg, 1848, specified in Section (2)(b) of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*:—Ashmead, 1904, *Mem. Carnegie Mus.* 1(4): 388.
- 18. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

19. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Thirty-seven (437) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fifth day of October, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Six.

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

FRANCIS HEMMING